

This information was sent to all current Auckland Council elected members and is proactively published as public information relating to the 2025 Auckland local elections

Update on voting locations for the 2025 Auckland Council Election

Memorandum sent via email to all Auckland Council Elected members on 27 November 2024

Purpose

1. To inform the Governing Body and local board members of the confirmed voting locations for the 2025 Auckland Council Election.

Summary

2. In [June 2024](#), the Governing Body was asked to consider five voting method options for the Auckland Council 2025 election. The Governing Body decided to support Option Two (Status Quo plus), postal voting with more special voting centres.
3. In consideration of the decision of the Governing Body and the input of local boards, staff developing the election programme have confirmed the following:
 - There will be at least one special voting centre location per local board, with two in the Franklin and Rodney local boards due to their size and two in Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area due to its length
 - Special voting centres will be in libraries that have been identified as high use/high traffic by the Community Wellbeing department
 - Every special voting centre will also allow the public to enrol to vote on site
 - Voting boxes will be in all Auckland Council libraries
 - Voting boxes will be in most transport hubs (Auckland Transport)
 - Voting boxes will be in all Auckland Woolworths stores, participating Pak'nSave stores, all Warehouse and Warehouse Stationary stores, participating tertiary institutions and all Auckland Work and Income offices.
4. A comprehensive list of special voting centres and vote box locations is provided in Attachment A.

Context

5. In February 2023, an internal evaluation of the Auckland Council 2022 elections was conducted. Local boards were asked for their feedback, and 17 local boards submitted formal feedback.
6. An evaluation of the Auckland Council 2022 elections was provided to local boards in March 2023 and to the Governing Body in [April 2023](#). This review outlined several short and long-term issues with the postal voting method from Auckland voters including:
 - some voters not receiving voting documents

- the need to travel far for a special voting centre
 - having to queue at a special voting centre on election day
 - the challenge of voting paper security.
7. Long-term issues were also identified, including:
 - the declining and costly postal service
 - the general decline in voter turnout.
 8. In May 2024 local boards were asked to provide feedback on a range of five voting method options for the Auckland Council 2025 election.
 9. One of the options in the 2022 evaluation was to consider moving from postal voting to a combination method (postal and booth). Staff investigated the feasibility of five options and presented them to local boards in May 2024.

Response to evaluation

10. Feedback from 17 local boards supported an increase in special voting locations, enrolment services and vote box locations, with 15 boards specifically supporting Option Two (Status Quo plus): postal voting with more special voting centres.
11. Following local input, in June 2024, the Governing Body was asked to consider these five voting method options and decide which should be used for the Auckland Council 2025 election.
12. The decision of the Governing Body was to support Option Two (Status Quo plus).

Discussion

13. Development of the 2025 Election Programme is underway. In consideration of the views of local boards and the decision of the Governing Body to proceed with Option Two (Status Quo plus) postal voting with more special voting centres, Election Programme Staff along with the Electoral Officer have confirmed the following:
 - At least one special voting centre will be in each local board area
 - Two special voting centres will be in Franklin and Rodney local boards due to their size and two in Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area due to its length
 - Special voting centres will be in libraries that have been identified as high use/high traffic by the Community Wellbeing Department
 - Every special voting centre will also allow the public to enrol to vote on site
 - Voting boxes will be in all Auckland Council libraries
 - Voting boxes will be in most transport hubs (Auckland Transport)
 - Voting boxes will be in all Auckland Woolworths stores, participating Pak'nSave stores, all Warehouse and Warehouse Stationary stores, participating tertiary institutions and all Auckland Work and Income offices.
14. At the time of publishing this memo, there are 24 confirmed locations for special voting centres and 216 confirmed locations for vote boxes throughout Auckland for the Auckland Council Election 2025. During the Auckland Council Election 2022, there were 8 locations for special voting centres and 136 vote boxes throughout Auckland.
15. A calendar is being developed to track events being held during the 2025 voting period where staff are coordinating a council presence to supply mobile enrolment and voting services.
16. A summary of local board feedback on the evaluation of Auckland Council 2022 elections has been included as Attachment B to this memo.

17. A summary of local board feedback on the options for voting methods in local elections has been included as Attachment C to this memo.

Next steps

18. Confirmed voting locations, special voting centres, and enrolment services will be communicated with the general public as part of the communication and marketing plans for the 2025 Election Programme.
19. If you have further queries, please contact the Elections Programme team at Elections@aklc.govt.nz

Attachments

Attachment A	Confirmed voting locations for the 2025 Auckland Council Election
Attachment B	Local Board Feedback on the Evaluation of Auckland Council 2022 elections
Attachment C	Local Board Feedback on Options for voting methods in local elections

Auckland Council Election 2025

Confirmed Special Voting Centres and Enrolment Locations

Local Board	Location	Address
Albert-Eden	Mount Albert Library	84 Saint Lukes Road, Mount Albert, Auckland 1025
Aotea/Great Barrier	Great Barrier Library	75 Hector Sanderson Road, Great Barrier Island / Aotea 0991
Devonport-Takapuna	Takapuna Library	9 The Strand, Takapuna, Auckland 0622
Franklin	Pukekohe Library	12 Massey Avenue, Pukekohe, Auckland 2120
	Waiuku Library	Civic Centre 10 King Street, Waiuku 2123
Henderson-Massey	Te Atatu Peninsula Hub	595 Te Atatu Road, Te Atatū Peninsula, Auckland 0610
Hibiscus and Bays	East Coast Bays Library	8 Bute Road, Browns Bay, Auckland 0630
	Whangaparoa Library	9 Main Street, Stanmore Bay, Whangaparāoa 0932
Howick	Botany Library	Level 1, Botany Town Centre Sunset Terrace East Tāmaki588, Chapel Road, East Tāmaki, Auckland 2013
Kaipātiki	Birkenhead Library	Corner Rawene Road &, Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead, Auckland 0626
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	Māngere East Library	370 Massey Road, Māngere East, Auckland 2024
Manurewa	Manurewa Library	7 Hill Road, Manurewa, Auckland 2102
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	Onehunga Library	85 Church Street, Onehunga, Auckland 1061
Ōrākei	Remuera Library	Somervell Presbyterian Church 497 Remuera Road, Remuera, Auckland 1050
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	Manukau Library	3 Osterley Way, Manukau City Centre, Auckland 2104
Papakura	Papakura Library	1/209 Great South Road, Papakura, Auckland 2110
Puketāpapa	Mount Roskill Library	546 Mount Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland 1042
Rodney	Helensville Library	49 Commercial Road, Helensville 0800
	Warkworth Library	2 Baxter Street, Warkworth 0910
Upper Harbour	Albany Village Library	30 Kell Drive, Albany, Auckland 0632
Waiheke	Waiheke Library	133/131 Ocean View Road, Oneroa, Waiheke Island 1081
Waitākere Ranges	Glen Eden Library	12/32 Glendale Road, Glen Eden, East 0602
Waitematā	Parnell Library	Jubilee Building, 545 Parnell Road, Parnell, Auckland 1052
Whau	New Lynn Library	3 Memorial Drive, New Lynn, Auckland 0600

Auckland Council Election 2025

Secure Vote Box Locations

Local Board	Location	Address
Albert-Eden	Mt Albert Library	84 St Lukes Road
	Pt Chevalier Library	Cnr Great North & Pt Chev Roads
	Epsom Library	195 Manukau Road
	WINZ	861 New North Road
	WINZ	191 - 193 Dominion Road
	Warehouse	7 Wagener Place
	Warehouse Stationary	8/1 Wagener Place Mega Centre
	Woolworths	Cnr Valley &, Dominion Road
	Woolworths	13 Point Chevalier Road
	Woolworths	661/80 Saint Lukes Road
	Woolworths	326 Great South Road
Aotea/Great Barrier	Local Board Office	81 Hector Sanderson Road
Devonport-Takapuna	Takapuna Library	9 The Strand
	Devonport Library	2 Victoria Road
	Transport Hub	Smales farm bus station
	Transport Hub	Devonport ferry terminal
	WINZ	519 Lake Road
	Woolworths	367 Lake Road
	Woolworths	143 Kitchener Road
	Woolworths	Cnr Sycamore Drive &, Sunnynook Road
	Woolworths	10 Barry's Point Road
Franklin	Pukekohe Library	Franklin The Centre, 12 Massey Avenue
	Waiuku Library	Civic Centre 10 King Street
	WINZ	9 - 11 Tobin Street
	WINZ	57B Queen Street
	Warehouse	124 Manukau Road
	Warehouse Stationary	106 Manukau Road
	Woolworths	Cnr Tobin Street &, Seddon Street
	Woolworths	186-192 Manukau Road
	Woolworths	129 Beachlands Rd
	Pak'n'Save	Cnr Queen &, Harris Street
Henderson Massey	Te Manawa Library	11 Kohuhu Lane, Massey
	Ranui Library	431 Swanson Road
	Henderson Library	3 Ratanui Street
	Te Atatu Peninsula Library	595 Te Atatu Road
	Transport Hub	Henderson train station
	WINZ	36-44 Sel Peacock Drive
	WINZ	22-24 Cabernet Crescent
	Warehouse	Fernhill Drive
	Warehouse	111-115 Lincoln Road
	Warehouse	30 Rainside Avenue
	Warehouse Stationary	111-115 Lincoln Road
	Warehouse Stationary	57-61 Maki Street
	Woolworths	West, City Shopping Centre, 7 Catherine Street

	Woolworths	185-187 Universal Drive
	Woolworths	7 Fred Taylor Drive
	Woolworths	583 Te Atatu Road
	Woolworths	Cnr Edmonton & Te Atatu Roads
	Woolworths	Westgate Shopping Centre, Cnr Westgate & Fern Hill Drive
	Pak'n'Save	17/19 Fred Taylor Dr
Hibiscus and Bays	East Coast and Bays Library	8 Bute Road, Browns Bay
	Orewa Library	12 Moana Avenue
	Whangaparaoa Library	9 Main Street
	WINZ	27 Florence Ave
	Warehouse	Silverdale Centre 61 Silverdale Street
	Woolworths	Moenui Avenue
	Woolworths	61 Silverdale Street
	Woolworths	Cnr Whangaparaoa & Wade River Road
	Woolworths	Cnr Anzac &, Clyde Road
	Woolworths	3 Ramsgate Terrace
	Pak'n'Save	20 Hibiscus Coast Highway
Howick	Botany Library	L1, Sunset Terrace, Botany Town Centre
	Howick Library	25 Uxbridge Road
	Highland Park Library	16 Highland Park Drive
	Pakuranga Library	7 Aylesbury Street
	Woolworths	Cnr Te Irirangi Drive &, Ti Rakau Drive
	WINZ	491 Pakuranga Road
	Warehouse	1 Aylesbury Street
	Warehouse	501 Ti Rakau Drive
	Warehouse	226 Ormiston Road
	Warehouse Stationary	Cnr Greenmount & Ti Rakau Drives
	Woolworths	Cnr Te Irirangi Drive &, Ti Rakau Drive
	Woolworths	507 Pakuranga Road
	Woolworths	35 Cook Street, Howick, Auckland 2014
	Woolworths	Cnr Meadowlands Drive &, Whitford Road
	Woolworths	Pakuranga Town Centre
	Pacn'Save	Botany Town Centre, 501 Ti Rakau Drive
	Pak'n'Save	1 Bellingham Rd
Kaipatiki	Glenfield Library	90 Bentley Avenue
	Birkenhead Library	Nell Fisher Reserve, Hinemoa Street
	Northcote Library	Norman King Square, 2 Ernie Mays Street
	University	North Campus Library, AL Building 90 Akoranga Drive
	WINZ	1 Peach Road
	Warehouse	40 - 48 Downing Street
	Warehouse Stationary	17-19 Croftfield Lane
	Woolworths	Cnr Highbury Pass & Birkenhead Ave
	Woolworths	Cnr Bentley Ave & Glenfield Road
	Woolworths	Pearn Crescent
Mangere Otahuhu	Mangere East Library	370 Massey Road
	Mangere Town Library	121R Bader Drive

	Mangere Bridge Library	5-7 Church Road
	Otahuhu Library	28/30 Mason Avenue
	Transport Hub	Otahuhu train station
	WINZ	93 Mascot Avenue
	WINZ	4 Fairburn Road
	Warehouse	John Goulter & George Bolt Memorial Drives
	Woolworths	Cnr George Bolt Memorial, John Goulter Drive
	Woolworths	359 Massey Road
	Woolworths	Mangere Town Centre, Bader Drive
	Pacn'Save	Corner of Bader Drive and Orly Avenue
Manurewa	Manurewa Library	7 Hill Road, Manurewa
	Te Matariki Clendon Library	17 Palmers Road
	WINZ	Clendon Shopping Centre, Corner Palmers Road and Roscommon Road
	WINZ	12 Selwyn Road
	Warehouse	Cnr Roscommon & Palmers Roads
	Woolworths	227 Browns Road
Maungakiki-Tamaki	Onehunga Library	85 Church Street
	Panmure Library	7-13 Pilkinton Road
	Glen Innes Library	108 Line Road
	Transport Hub	Panmure train station
	WINZ	201-211 Onehunga Mall
	WINZ	Unit 1, 40 - 42 Mayfair Place
	Warehouse	101 Lunn Ave
	Warehouse	Sylvia Park Shopping Centre 286 Mt Wellington Highway
	Woolworths	Cnr Church St &, Selwyn Street
	Woolworths	Cnr Penrose Rd &, Mount Wellington Highway
	Pak'n'Save	691 Manukau Rd
	Pak'n'Save	182 Apirana Ave
Orakei	St Helliars Library	32 St Helliars Bay Road
	Remuera Library	429 Remuera Road
	Woolworths	35-47 Saint Johns Road
	Woolworths	130-140 Felton Mathew Avenue
Otara Papatoetoe	Manukau Library	Grd floor, 3 Osterley Way
	Tupu Youth Library	102R Dawson Road
	Papatoetoe Library	30 Wallace Road
	Otara Library	46 Fair Mall
	Transport Hub	Manukau train station
	Transport Hub	Manukau bus station
	Transport Hub	Puhinui train station
	University	South Campus Library, MA Building 640 Great South Road
	University	53 Otara Road
	WINZ	18 Amersham Way
	WINZ	52-60 Lovegrove Crescent

	WINZ	328 Great South Road
	Warehouse	54 Cavendish Drive
	Warehouse Stationary	Unit D, Manukau Supa Centa, 4/72 Cavendish Drive
	Woolworths	652 Great South Road
	Woolworths	Shop 99, Cnr Manukau Station Road & Great South Road
	Woolworths	217 Great South Road
Papakura	Papakura Library	L1, 209 Great South Road
	Takanini Library	30 Walters Road
	Transport Hub	Papakura train station
	WINZ	20-22 Queen Street
	Warehouse	30 Walters Road, Takanini
	Woolworths	2 Averill Street
	Woolworths	90-96 Great South Road
	Woolworths	228 Great South Road
	Woolworths	2 Periko Way
Puketepapa	Mt Roskill Library	546 Mt Albert Road
	WINZ	Three Kings Plaza 536, Mt Albert Road
	Warehouse	22 Stoddard Road
	Warehouse	100 Pah Road
	Warehouse Stationary	100 Pah Road
	Woolworths	570 Hillsborough Road
	Woolworths	112 Stoddard Road
	Woolworths	532 Mt Albert Road
Rodney	Helensville Library	49 Commercial Road
	Kumeu Library	296 Main Road, Huapai
	Mahurangi Bay Library	21 Hamatana Road, Snells Beach
	Warkworth Library	1 Baxter Street
	Wellsford Library	13 Port Albert Road
	WINZ	34-38 Commercial Road
	WINZ	Winscombe Mall, 37 Queen Street
	Warehouse	68 Woodcocks Road
	Woolworths	20-26 Neville Street
	Woolworths	43 Commercial Road
	Pak'n'Save	Corner Hudson Road, and SH1
Upper Harbour	Albany Village Library	30 Kell Drive
	Transport Hub	Albany Bus station
	Transport Hub	Constellation bus station
	WINZ	44 Corinthian Drive
	Warehouse	Don McKinnon Drive
	Woolworths	124 Hobsonville Road
	Woolworths	65 Greville Road
	Pak'n'Save	Don McKinnon Drive
Waiheke	Waiheke Library	131-133 Ocean View Rd
	Transport Hub	Waiheke ferry terminal
	WINZ	Shop 1, 116 Ocean View Road
	Woolworths	13-19 Belgium Street
Waitakere	Glen Eden Library	12-32 Glendale Road
	Titirangi Library	500 South Titirangi Road

	WINZ	20 Oates Road
Waitemata	CBD Library	44-46 Lorne Street
	Parnell Library	Jubilee Building, 545 Parnell Road
	Grey Lynn Library	474 Great North Road
	Little Leys Library	14 Jervois Road
	Transport Hub	Britomart Train station
	Transport Hub	Newmarket train station
	Transport Hub	Downtown Auckland ferry terminal
	University	City Campus Library. Level 4, WA Building 55 Wellesley Street East
	WINZ	Level 3, 450 Queen Street
	Warehouse	21-25 Elliot Street
	Warehouse	64-74 Broadway
	Woolworths	AMP Centre, Ground Floor, Lower Albert Street
	Woolworths	76 Quay Street
	Woolworths	19-25 Victoria Street West
	Woolworths	271 Richmond Road
	Woolworths	104 Pakenham Street West
	Woolworths	4 Williamson Avenue
	Woolworths	Level 3, Westfield Newmarket 277 Broadway
Woolworths	1 Kelmarna Avenue Herne Bay	
Whau	Blockhouse Bay Library	578 Blockhouse Bay Road
	New Lynn Library	3 Memorial Drive
	Avindale Library	93 Rosebank Road
	Transport Hub	New Lynn train station
	WINZ	44-48 Rosebank Road
	WINZ	5-9 Hugh Brown Drive
	Warehouse	7-13 Rata Street
	Warehouse Stationary	13 Rata Street
	Woolworths	19-29 Donovan Street
	Woolworths	Cnr Great North &, West Coast Road
	Woolworths	Lynnmall Shopping Centre Great North Road



LOCAL BOARD SERVICES

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Evaluation of Auckland Council 2022 elections

April 2023



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Four boards did not provide feedback on this item.

Albert-Eden Local Board

Resolution number: AE/2023/35

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

1. provide its feedback, as outlined in resolutions b) – j), regarding the Evaluation of the 2022 Auckland Council Elections.
2. note with concern the low turnout in local body elections and recommends:
 - a. that Auckland Council continue to explore the most effective means of reminding voters throughout the election period to look out for their ballots and return them on time, by targeted as well as broad messages
 - b. that the election period be timed to avoid school and university holidays
 - c. that the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 be amended to allow voters overseas to receive and return their voting documents electronically, as is permitted by clause 45A in the Electoral Regulations 1996
 - d. that the Local Electoral Act 2001 be amended to allow enrolment until the close of voting
 - e. that voting close at 7.00pm on a Saturday, since this is what voters are used to from general elections and some may be caught out by a midday close of voting
 - f. implementation of recommendations for extensive civics education both for school age children and for the community generally so people have both the confidence and the competence to vote
 - g. the Electoral Commission and other agencies should fund impartial, measured coverage of local government decisions noting that the current funding of regional news reporters is already having a beneficial effect in that regard.
3. note that some confusion remains (including among electoral workers) about eligibility for residents on some categories of visa, and recommends further training for electoral workers on eligibility and clear messaging in publicity materials so that all eligible residents are aware they are able to vote.
4. note the success of placing voting boxes at Countdown supermarkets as well as libraries and recommends this initiative continue and be expanded if possible to other supermarket chains.
5. note that there appeared to be more widespread difficulties with voting papers being delivered than in previous local elections, and recommend investigating whether this is indeed increasing, and if so, how it might be addressed.
6. note that postal delays have increased since 2019 and that postal deliveries no longer take place daily, which can lead to delays both for voters receiving voting packs and in returning ballots to the electoral officer, effectively reducing the voting period and meaning that some ballots arrived too late to be counted; and to mitigate this, the board recommends that votes postmarked as having been sent before the close of voting should be accepted and counted if they arrive before the final count is finished.
7. note that requesting a special voting pack by mail is also subject to postal delays, which makes it crucial for electors to be able to obtain a special vote in person until the close of voting, and that

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there were very few places electors could do this (only eight across Auckland, and only one on the isthmus, with most open only during business hours), and the Board recommends:

- a. Providing at least one 'one-stop shop' with weekend and evening hours in each local board area throughout the voting period, where electors can enroll, obtain a special ballot, or seek advice on difficulties such as damaged or missing voting packs
 - b. Establishing and publicising a day on which more pop-up one-stop shops are available across the region
 - c. That these locations be managed similarly to voting booths at general elections, with campaigning and branded party items not allowed within 50 metres
 - d. That staff ensure that ample voting papers are available at one-stop shops, and develop procedures to ensure quick delivery of more papers if they are needed, noting that both in 2019 and in 2022 some voters missed out on casting a special vote because of a shortage of voting papers. The Board notes that the system proposed in Auckland Council's submission (of providing electronic access to staff at special voting centres to print out ballots in case of running out or not having the correct papers for a voter from a different area) is a promising avenue for investigation
 - e. Developing procedures for allowing electors to authorise another person to pick up a special voting pack for them if the elector is unable to (for instance, if they are isolating with Covid).
8. support the introduction of a combination of booth and postal voting with booths set up on voting day to enable people to enroll and vote and support those booths closing at 7.00pm on voting day.
 9. strongly recommend further investigation into giving responsibility for all local government elections to the Electoral Commission.
 10. note that security issues around online voting are at present insurmountable.

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

Resolution number: GBI/2023/26

That the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board:

1. provide the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:
 - a. support a combination of postal and booth voting.
 - b. encourage the introduction of an online voting option.
 - c. advocate for a change to the by-election thresholds that should a newly elected position become vacant prior to the inauguration that the next individual on the list automatically gets the opportunity to take the position.
 - d. advocate for implementation of civic education in schools to encourage future engagement

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

Resolution number: DT/2023/44

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

1. tuhi ā-taipitopito/note the Boards feedback provided at the 7 February 2023 business meeting on the Auckland Council's submission in the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Elections (DT/2023/9)
2. ohia/endorse the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022.
3. ohia/endorse the option of moving from postal voting to a combination of postal and booth voting

Henderson-Massey Local Board

Resolution number: HM/2023/46

That the Henderson-Massey Local Board:

1. support the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022 with a mixture of postal and online voting.

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Resolution number: HB/2023/29

That the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board:

1. kohuki / consider its feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022
2. whakaae / agree with the recommendation to have a combination of postal voting and polling booth voting, to allow for greater choice of voting method, although it is noted that this may not greatly increase voter turnout
3. tono / request that all Libraries are used as voting hubs, where trained staff are able to download and provide special voting forms, polling booths are available for the duration of the voting period, and information on the local candidates are displayed
4. tono / request that funding is made available for more meet the candidate events, and in every local board area, and that this funding go towards making these events recorded and published on an Auckland Council elections site
5. tono / request that further investigation is undertaken to understand how to increase the understanding of Auckland's complex governance model, and that this is done with partners such as the local tertiary institutions
6. tono / request that Auckland Council advocate for a more responsive special voting system for those eligible voters who are not in Auckland during the election period
7. tono / request that an alternative term is used to describe postal voting, to reflect the fact that the postal element is now a misnomer.

Howick Local Board

That the Howick Local Board:

1. recommends the postal voting system be discontinued, noting the following reasons:
 - a. It is inefficient, in many cases voting papers are forgotten, misplaced, or thrown out with junk mail, so this immediately reduces the potential voting return numbers.
 - b. many potential voters did not receive voting papers, or received them late, due to the inadequate postal system.
 - c. there was a low voter turnout in the recent election.
 - d. if the postal voting system was discontinued, recommends a shift towards either an online voting system, which should encourage younger voters more, or run local body elections the same way as parliamentary elections and have one set day where people go to a polling booth to vote, or a combination of both. This would focus voters' attention on the one day they have an opportunity to support their chosen candidates.
2. in regard to candidate information and nominations, notes the following points for input:
 - a. notes there was a lack of support for candidates, especially new candidates.
 - b. notes that the candidate handbook was removed from the website which created confusion, especially regarding authorisation statements and promotional rules.
 - c. notes that compliance is full of grey areas and there needs to be clarity around signage, and other electioneering activities.
 - d. notes that changes made by Parliament through the Local Electoral (Advertising) Amendment Act 2022 were not well communicated or understood.
 - e. recommends that nominations for candidates should be handled by an independent body.
 - f. recommends that work is done to make nomination forms and the related process clearer. There were a number of mistakes in the processing of this information.
 - g. recommends that the application process for candidates should go online and a payment gateway option needs to be provided online also.
 - h. suggest that all potential candidates attend at least two Local Board or Council meetings (whichever is appropriate to their nomination) to give them some idea of the role and matters they would be dealing with.
 - i. suggest potential candidates be offered a familiarisation session where they might learn more about the elected member role including their obligation and restrictions and skills required.
3. in regard to candidate criteria, notes the following points for input:
 - a. recommend that are more prescriptive criteria of candidate suitability is created and communicated. Whilst we are always excited to encourage a wide representation of our diverse communities some potential candidates are of the belief that they wouldn't have the ability to do the role; others need continual help with basic understanding of their role, and

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with using technology. Clear descriptions of each role is important to ensure candidates are confident able to operate at the level required.

- b. recommend that candidates are made aware of the commitment required, noting that they must be available to attend meetings/workshops during daytime hours, and must be able to accommodate the hours set out for the role they are standing for.
4. in regard to the voting system, notes the following points for input:
 - a. requests proper consideration of moving from First Past the Post (FPP) voting to Single Transferable Vote (STV) as allowed by the Local Electoral Act.
 5. in regard to candidate advertising, notes the following points for input:
 - a. recommends consideration of options to further limit the impact of financial advantage on advertising to level the playing field such as limitations on the number of signs / billboards or reviewing the spending limits.
 - b. recommends consideration of partnering with community groups to run well organised and promoted “meet the candidate events”, including recording questions and answers to be published online for those that cannot attend.
 6. in regards to other related matters, provides the following points for input:
 - a. Highlight the importance of political neutrality from Members of Parliament around and during the Local Government election campaign.
 - b. Suggests that the lack of council facilities in the Flat Bush/Ormiston area contributes to the lower turn out. There is no Countdown or Library, therefore no local ballot boxes which made it harder to post votes.

Kaipātiki Local Board

That the Kaipātiki Local Board:

- a) provides the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022 (in no particular order):
 - i) support a combination of both postal voting and booth voting:
 - A) agree with the Evaluation that there was a noticeable number of people wanting to vote in the last two days of the voting period, and sizeable queues at some ballot boxes on the last day, indicating a desire for voting at the end of the voting period.
 - B) support the promotion of a single day of booth voting to help galvanise voters and to help prevent people forgetting to post their vote.
 - C) We support a reduction in the voting period from 3 weeks to 2 weeks, to help prevent people deferring voting until it is too late.
 - ii) commend the increase in ballot boxes from previous elections, which were located at Countdown Supermarkets. However as many of the supermarkets are located in close proximity to other ballot box locations, such as at libraries, there wasn't an increase in geographic spread across the local board area. We would like to see more ballot box locations next time with greater coverage of the local board area, especially considering the decline in postboxes in recent years.
 - iii) we noticed that many ballot boxes were full in the lead-up to the end of the voting period and boxes were not removed immediately at the end of the voting period. Ballot boxes needed to be cleared more regularly and removed from sight at the close of voting..
 - iv) the most significant obstacle to voting for North Shore residents was the lack of local special voting booths. Many residents did not receive their voting papers, or their papers were damaged by wet weather. Those who needed replacement papers were told to travel to Orewa or the City, which was inconvenient and not always possible. Casting a special vote should be easy. We recommend that there is at least one special voting booth per local board area, or at the very least one per electoral ward.
 - v) would like to see greater and swifter enforcement of the rules around billboards and candidate brochures. There were many instances of billboards being located outside of the designated site, or not carrying an authorisation statement. There were also instances of candidate brochures not including authorisation statements.
 - vi) suggest that one way to help supply more candidate information to voters would be to offer the opportunity for candidates to each supply a flyer (of specified size) to accompany the standard voter booklet.
 - vii) support the subject of compulsory voting being explored by the Electoral Review Panel as a means to increase voting turnout and transforming it from a right to a duty.
 - viii) strongly support the teaching of Civics at schools, including on the voting system, structure and purpose of Auckland Council, and the role of Local Boards.

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- ix) hold concerns about the role that Auckland Council has played in the election in targeting candidates to stand for elected positions. This is effectively the operational arm of council trying to shape/alter the makeup of the governance arm, which is inappropriate. We do, however, support Council encouraging the public to vote and seek information on nominated candidates.
- x) would like consideration to be given to passing the responsibility of running local body elections to the Electoral Commission.
- xi) support an increase in Māori representation on the Governing Body, such as by way of Māori wards. However, the role and purpose of the Independent Māori Statutory Board should be reassessed in this instance, in particular, whether the Board members continue to hold voting rights at meetings.
- xii) do not support STV as a method of voting.
- xiii) request that the number of board members on each Local Board is reassessed once the 2023 Census population data is released. The Kaipātiki Local Board currently has a population of over 88,000 people (2018 Census) and 8 members, however to ensure representation is approximately one member per 10,000 in population, there should currently be 9 members and this is likely to be reinforced by the 2023 data.
- xiv) support moving to a 4-year electoral term for local bodies.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

Resolution number: MO/2022/172

That the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board:

1. provide the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:

Postal voting

- a. support the proposal of moving from the postal voting method to a combination of postal and booth voting whereby booths are staffed on election day and do not close until 7 pm noting:
 - i. that the postal voting system is no longer effective for most voters. The proposal should be more effective with in-person voting, in addition to postal voting. Options to offer secure online voting should also be explored
 - ii. council has witnessed a decade of low voter turnout in lower socioeconomic areas, yet no successful measures have resulted in voter turnout parity when compared to our central and affluent counterparts. A closer inspection would reveal that the voices often disengaged are Māori and Pacific and may require a bespoke approach
 - iii. postal voting has also failed to support democratic participation in areas such as South Auckland, due to, highly mobile communities meaning addresses on the roll can run several changes of home behind; reduced mail deliveries to voters; few locations at which to post votes back; young people not engaging with the postal system at all; and the pressures of daily life in low socio-economic areas as some contributing factors for lower voting turn out
 - iv. request that special voting procedure requires more thought – locations for this were few essentially Council’s “super-centres”; The sites were often too far to travel to for workers and busy families on a budget, even if sites are known; hours were essentially business hours, and shift workers would struggle to take time off work and queue to cast their special vote.

Maori representation

- b. support Māori representation in future local elections. A move to implement dedicated Māori wards will enable the council to better reflect Māori values, issues, priorities, and aspirations as they relate to council roles and functions and help us better reflect the needs and aspirations of our entire community
 - i. Auckland Council is committed to honouring the Treaty of Waitangi and embraces the opportunity to develop and implement Māori representation into its unique governance structure
 - ii. support the Central Government in developing a new legislative framework for Te Tiriti-related provisions in the Local Government Act that drives genuine partnership in a local context and explicitly recognise Te Ao Māori values and wellbeing concepts.

Improving voter turnout

- c. request future local election advertising is better resourced to reach diverse ethnic communities, like Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, through local radio stations, faith-based communities, targeted forums in addition to online platforms to attract diverse participation and local election promotional material that are meaningful and relevant being translated into a wide variety of languages that includes Pasifika, Māori and growing Hindi population. If resources are not adequate, then consideration for local government elections be facilitated by the electoral commission; freeing up the human resources committed by Council as it would be conducted entirely by the commission.

Manurewa Local Board

Resolution number: MR/2022/169

That the Manurewa Local Board provide the following feedback the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:

Improving voter turnout

1. the board suggests the following ways to increase voter turnout:
2. civics and citizenship education should be compulsory as a part of the social studies curriculum in schools. This should include components on local government, as well as central Government. This could include running mock elections. Age-appropriate civics education should be included in the primary curriculum.
3. the local government election voting process should be simplified and made as similar as possible to central government elections.
4. engagement with target communities to increase participation needs to be ongoing, not undertaken only in the lead-up to elections, as is often the case now.
5. working with community groups is an important method of increasing community understanding of local government.
6. engagement programmes need to be funded appropriately by central Government in order to be effective.

Management of elections

7. the board does not support the ongoing provision of election services by private organisations. We prefer giving responsibility for overseeing the administration of local body elections to the Electoral Commission. They have a proven track record for competently running elections and it makes sense to use this expertise for local government elections.
8. This will also mean that the same body will be responsible for enrolling voters and overseeing the election, which will simplify matters for voters and allow for a 'one-stop shop' approach, where voters can enrol and vote at the same time.

Postal voting

9. the board feels that the postal voting system is no longer effective for most voters, due to the increasing unreliability of the postal system and the reduced number of post boxes in most neighbourhoods. More options for in-person (booth) voting or locations to drop off votes should be made available, in addition to postal voting. Ways to make postal voting more secure should be explored if it is to be retained as an option. Options to offer secure online voting should also be explored.
10. making the voter experience in local body elections as similar as possible to general elections would help to reduce confusion and encourage greater turnout. Offering inperson voting and having a strongly promoted voting period, including a final 'election day' should be part of this.

Electoral system

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11. the board does not support adopting the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) voting method for Auckland Council elections. STV complicates the voter experience and will not encourage higher turnout. It requires voters to take more time to fill out their ballots, and to have a high level of knowledge of the candidate in order to be able to rank them.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

Resolution number: MT/2023/20

That the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board:

1. receive the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022
2. support the proposal to adopt a combination of booth voting and postal voting to improve access to voting.
3. note that the deprived areas are likely to have more transient residents, creating challenges for access to postal voting ballot papers.
4. recommend additional consideration and resource is given to improving the process for updating electoral roll prior to the election period and the special voting process. e) recommend that greater resources are allocated to branding and publicity in the year leading up to elections
5. recommend that Auckland Council and local boards continue to focus on improving public perception and engagement throughout the term to increase civic engagement and voter turnout
6. do not support the extension of voting hours to 7pm, noting the additional costs involved with staffing voting booths and that people are likely to vote last minute even with a later closing time.
7. recommend that Auckland Council advocate for local government elections to be run publicly by the electoral commission, noting the barriers to voting that arose from private delivery.
8. note the need for improving processes around meet the candidates events to ensure a safe environment for candidates and the public.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

That the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board:

1. whakarite / provide the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022.
 - a. tuhi ā-taipitopito /note that voter turnout in the 2022 local government elections within the Auckland Council area varied between 22 per cent and 56.6 per cent; turnout for electors of Māori descent was lower than the average turnout and Ōtara-Papatoetoe had lowest voter turnout in Auckland (24 per cent for Papatoetoe and 22 per cent for Ōtara)
 - b. tuhi ā-taipitopito /note that results of the Evaluation of the 2022 Auckland Council Elections highlight trends that low voter turnout is associated with lower socio-economic areas. The board support the analysis and view that a large part of local communities of Ōtara-Papatoetoe live in rental accommodation and have little or no interaction with council, in terms of property-based services (such as consenting services) nor have direct responsibility for paying rates. Many are living in conditions of socio-economic deprivation and voting is not the immediate need or priority.
 - c. tuhi ā-taipitopito /note further feedback on matters to consider on decisions required for the 2025 elections in the table below:

Matters to consider	Support/ Don't support	Comments
1. If the council wishes to <u>change the electoral system from First Past the Post to Single Transferable Vote</u> it must do so by 12 September 2023 (Local Electoral Act 2001, section 27).	Do not support	<p>A concern that changing the electoral system from First Past the Post (FPP) to Single Transferable Vote (STV) risks overcomplication.</p> <p>Such a move could end up increasing errors and discounting votes because people have not fully understood the STV system.</p> <p>Even though STV is a fairer system than FPP, the board support retaining FPP electoral system.</p>
2. The Local Government Electoral Legislation Bill, when enacted, will require the council to resolve by 20 December 2023 whether to have Māori representation . There must be prior engagement with Māori and the community before making	Support	<p>The board is of the view that Māori representation is an imperative. In saying that, consultation with mana whenua and matawaka is essential before any change is put in place.</p> <p>In that there must be consideration to develop a voting system that is easy to understand for all voters. The low voter</p>

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<p>this decision. If the decision is to have Māori representation, then the council must provide for Māori wards when it conducts its review of representation arrangements.</p>		<p>turnout per se in local government elections and the very low numbers in the local board area remains a concern that be addressed as next steps are designed.</p>
<p>3. The council is required to conduct a review of representation arrangements for the 2025 elections. This includes reviewing the number of councillors, whether they are elected at large or by ward and, if by ward, the number of wards, their names and their boundaries. It also includes reviewing the number of members on each local board, and whether they are elected at large or by subdivision. The names of local boards can also be reviewed. The proposed process for doing this will be reported later this year.</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>Keep as is, because if at large then communities of interest, geographically and demographically, will be out voted by groups who are the “regular” or consistent voters, who tend to belong to more affluent economic backgrounds, older age category and of pakeha descent (Caucasian or European descent).</p>
<p>4. The council may also resolve to change the order of names on voting documents. It will need to do this prior to the Electoral Officer notifying the 2025 election.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The board support a random order of names. Changing to a random order can reduce risks of people on top of list having an advantage of gaining votes because their names are on top of the list, when people cast their votes.</p>
<p>5. Officer recommendation is moving from postal voting to a combination of postal voting and booth voting would incur additional costs. – approx. more than \$20,000.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The board is in support of the officer recommendation. It is of the view that a change is warranted because at present, in the current system, only certain demographics are having their voices heard.</p> <p>Voting needs to be made more accessible, especially for low socio-economic areas. The benefits will significantly outweigh the costs.</p> <p>Moreover, investment of resource and effort is needed for proper communication</p>

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		<p>and engagement with culturally and ethnically diverse communities if the new system is to come into place. In the absence of that investment we are just making it easier for the already enfranchised to vote and not the underrepresented.</p>
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Papakura Local Board

Resolution number: PPK/2023/40

That the Papakura Local Board:

1. provide the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:

Improving voter turnout

2. the board suggests the following ways to increase voter turnout:
 - a. education regarding the electoral system, local and central Government should be compulsory as a part of the social studies curriculum in schools. This could include running mock elections. Age-appropriate civics education should be included in the primary curriculum. Professional development should be provided to teachers to enable them to effectively teach election processes and the role of local government.
 - b. the local government election voting process should be simplified and made as similar as possible to central Government elections.

Management of elections

- c. the board does not support the ongoing provision of election services by private organisations. We prefer giving responsibility for overseeing the administration of local body elections to the Electoral Commission. They have a proven track record for competently running elections and it makes sense to use this expertise for local government elections. This will also mean that the same body will be responsible for enrolling voters and overseeing the election, which will simplify matters for voters.

Postal voting

- d. the board feels that the postal voting system is no longer effective for most voters, due to the increasing unreliability of the postal system and the reduced number of post boxes in most neighbourhoods. More options for in-person (booth) voting or locations to drop off votes should be made available, in addition to postal voting.
- e. making the voter experience in local body elections as similar as possible to general elections would help to reduce confusion and encourage greater turnout. Offering in-person voting and having a strongly promoted voting period, including a final 'election day' should be part of this.
- f. the board feels that making the voting period shorter, with an emphasis placed on publicising the final 'election day' will reduce the likelihood of voters delaying voting until it is too late or filling in voting forms and forgetting to cast them.
- g. the maintenance and updating of the electoral roll need to be improved if postal voting is retained. This issue is particularly acute in parts of Auckland where residents change addresses frequently and can result on voters not receiving their ballots. We request that ways for Government agencies to cross-reference and share information to increase the accuracy of postal addresses on the roll are investigated.

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- h. the board does not support use of online voting as an option, due to the security issues this presents. If online voting is introduced in the future, it should only be an option at local government elections if it is also an option at general elections. Local government elections should not be used to trial new voting methods.

Electoral system

- i. the board does not support adopting the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) voting method for Auckland Council elections. STV complicates the voter experience and will not encourage higher turnout. It requires voters to take more time to fill out their ballots, and to have a high level of knowledge of the candidate in order to be able to rank them.

Puketāpapa Local Board

Resolution number: PKTPP/2022/152

That the Puketāpapa Local Board:

1. whakarite / provide kohuki / consider it's feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022
 - a. endorse the proposal moving from the postal voting method to a combination of postal and booth voting.
 - b. recommend centralising and standardising local election processes and voting methods respectively.
 - c. request additional resource into increasing public awareness and education around local elections.
 - d. request special voting places are more accessible and well equipped.
 - e. provide the following feedback to issues arising from the 2022 local elections:
 - i. there was confusion amongst the community how local elections work in comparison to general elections.
 - ii. there is a lack of community appeal and participation with voting in local elections.
 - iii. there is a need for better enabling community participation in standing with funding support options through central government budgets, it is very costly to independently run a campaign.
 - iv. do not recommend election services being run by private organisations. If centrally run then it would ensure systems across the country are aligned, direct accountability for errors and the ability to implement changes
 - v. note concern with messaging from Elections NZ such as vote for change. Neutral language needs to be used as well as the voting agency remaining neutral.
 - vi. note there were too few special voting places, and these were not accessible enough such as closing early, too few locations and some running out of voting papers.
 - vii. request increased efforts into ensuring no voting place can run out of voting papers.
 - viii. alternatives to postal voting need to be explored that are well staffed and resourced.
 - ix. postal voting requires too much effort on the community having to find a post box to send their vote in.
 - x. postal ballots have a high probability of exploitation.
 - xi. postal voting does not appear to work, and the post is no longer in majority of people's daily lives.
 - xii. support a two week long voting period with polling stations to ensure vote integrity.

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- xiii. increase opportunities for people to drop off their voting papers and have these easily identifiable.
- xiv. election boxes at Countdown supermarkets were not easily identifiable and required stronger and increase signage.

Rodney Local Board

Resolution number: RD/2022/158

The Rodney Local Board:

1. recommend that more resourcing be allocated to the current provider, Election Services, to deliver the election process
2. recommend the time allowance given for voting papers to be received and returned be lengthened
3. recommend an increase in the number of special vote supercentres in Rodney to include the townships of Wellsford, Warkworth, Kūmeu and Dairy Flat and ensure that they located near parking and public transport
4. recommend an increase in the number of vote boxes across the region to include all major supermarkets and shopping malls
5. recommend vote boxes are placed in easy to find and visible locations
6. recommend that further investigation is required as to why NZ Post did not deliver some voting papers to residents as per paragraph 64 of the report
7. recommend more pre-election education regarding the roles of councillors and local board members in order to increase understanding of the importance of voting
8. note the issues with the provision, locations and delivery of special voting across the region
9. note the issues with delivery of voting papers to rural residential addresses and the widespread reports of residents in Rodney not receiving voting document

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Resolution number: WTK/2023/26

That the Waitākere Ranges Local Board:

1. whakarite / provide the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:
2. support a combination of postal and booth voting to accommodate special votes and those who wish to cast a vote on the last day of the local election
3. support moving responsibility for running local elections to the Electoral Commission to reduce duplication and costs to councils, and enable a nationally coordinated drive to improve voter turnout with local tailoring
4. request process improvements to ensure that those whose names are withheld from the public electoral role for privacy reasons are still able to vote, as this was reported to have been an issue in the 2022 election
5. request that considering the low turn-out, marketing be reviewed to create a more targeted approach that actively encourages our diverse communities to participate and vote in local elections.

Waitematā Local Board

Resolution number: WTM/2023/42

That the Waitematā Local Board:

1. provide the following its feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022.
 - a. support the proposal of moving to a combination of postal and polling booth voting whereby booths are staffed on election day and do not close until 7pm.
 - b. urge having some polling booths open during the three-week voting period.
 - c. urge that appropriate measures be developed so that voting and special voting booths cannot run out of voting documents, such as the ability to print out a copy of every alternative voting paper.
 - d. urge the greater and more frequent establishment of one-stop enrolment and voting places particularly in the City Centre.
 - e. support greater Council involvement in both community-organised and Council organised meet the candidates meetings.
 - f. support Council's Youth Voting initiatives and urges its expansion into more widespread civics education.
 - g. note that the issue of Māori Wards is likely to arise in Auckland Council's next representation review.

Whau Local Board

Resolution number: WH/2023/17

That the Whau Local Board:

1. welcome the opportunity to give feedback on the Evaluation of the 2022 Auckland Council elections
2. tautoko / support the combination of postal and booth voting whereby booths are staffed on election day
3. reiterate feedback provided for inclusion in Auckland Council’s submission to the Justice Committee on the Inquiry into 2022 Local Elections, specifically:
 - a. tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that the role of officials and elected members is to encourage all eligible people to vote and to remove barriers that might prevent them so doing, especially in consideration of more transient populations where the need for a current/fixed address makes postal voting problematic
 - b. tuhi ā-taipitopito / note a significant proportion of Whau residents do not appear to be on the electoral roll
 - c. tono / request that more one stop shops enabling enrolment and voting are available in public spaces in the 2025 elections, noting fewer were available in the 2022 elections as compared to the 2019 elections and the “pop-up shops” in 2022 only enrolled people, who then had to find a “super-centre” at which to vote
 - d. tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that a smaller number of “super-centres” for special voting in 2022 resulted in lengthy queues for potential voters, especially close to polling day, with several Whau residents informally complaining about the lack of clear
 - e. signposting and guidance on how to access special voting at our nearest “super-centre” v. recognise the value in 2022 of having more sites where voting papers could be deposited and request that these sites are advertised more widely in future
 - f. tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that as mail is used less regularly fewer people are lodging Change of Address forms and suggest that property managers, real estate agents and social housing case managers could be utilised to ensure people remain enrolled when they move.



LOCAL BOARD SERVICES

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Local board resolutions on Options for voting methods in local elections

May/June 2024



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Albert-Eden Local Board

Resolution number AE/2024/1

MOVED by Chairperson K Smith, seconded by Member J Tan:

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) support Option Four - Combination Voting (postal and booths on election day-only which are all equipped for special voting) as it caters for people who are used to the recent early postal voting method and an option for booth voting on the day, similar to parliamentary elections, which will remove some of the confusion and allow voters to use booths as a last minute method should they need it.
- b) request voting at booths conclude at 7.00pm which is aligned for simplicity with central government elections.
- c) request Auckland Council work with NZ Post to close postal voting at the same time of 7.00pm.
- d) request there is a least one location for special voting per local board/ward area in the lead up to the election booth day.
- e) note Department of Internal Affairs are currently processing a modernisation for a change likely in Election 2025 and there may be a shift away from the postal system due to the reliance on a declining postal service which has increasing costs, therefore local body elections should immediately start to shift towards booth voting by providing a hybrid approach these next elections.
- f) request libraries and supermarket drop-off ballot boxes be maintained for the convenience of voters given the reduced availability of postal mail boxes and explore other supermarket chains with a view to providing the same service.
- g) note that as it is costly to have special voter provisions in every election centre, the Electoral Commission should investigate more cost effective methods.
- h) request mass, simple communication about voting be prioritised; for example with closing dates and times for voting and online address to find out how and where.

CARRIED

Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

Resolution number GBI/2024/2

MOVED by Chairperson I Fordham, seconded by Member P O'Shea:

That the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board:

- a) whakarite / provide the following feedback on their preferred voting method provided in this report and on the staff recommendation for the status quo plus option:
 - i) tautoko / support option two – postal voting with more special voting centres (status quo plus).
 - ii) recommend the introduction of an option for online voting.
 - iii) advocate for increased communications to elevate awareness and engagement.
 - iv) advocate for a change to the by-election thresholds that should a newly elected position become vacant prior to the inauguration that the next individual on the list automatically gets the opportunity to take the position.
 - v) advocate for implementation of civic education in schools to encourage future engagement.

CARRIED

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

Resolution number DT/2024/3

MOVED by Chairperson T van Tonder, seconded by Member G Wood:

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

- a) support status quo plus option recommended in this report noting that:
 - i. Auckland Council is not prepared to deliver booth voting in time for the 2025 elections.
 - ii. There needs to be at least 5 special voting centres in each Local Board area to ensure accessibility for residents.
 - iii. Auckland Council should be working towards the delivery of a combination of both booth and postal voting for the 2028 elections.
 - iv. Auckland Council needs to establish an easier system for voters to get new voting papers as many that arrived in letterboxes succumbed to snail infestation or wet weather and were unable to be utilised.
 - v. There ought to be 'Vote Ambassadors' established wearing recognisable t-shirts walking in highly populated locations (Universities, RTN stations, town centres) pointing voters to their nearest special voting centre or postal box.

CARRIED

Franklin Local Board

Resolution number FR/2024/4

MOVED by Member A Kay, seconded by Member M Bell JP:

That the Franklin Local Board:

- a) whakarite / provide the following feedback on their preferred voting method provided in this report and on the staff recommendation for the status quo plus option.
 - i) note that the board has not had the opportunity to test these views with the community and therefore do not represent Franklin Local Community views. Views provided by the Franklin Local Board are based on board members experience as elected members of Auckland Council
 - ii) support Option 2 - postal voting, with more special voting centers ('status quo plus')
 - iii) note that online voting is not an option within the Local Electoral Act 2021. The board request that the Governing Body advocate for online voting as a way of enabling increased participation in local body elections.

CARRIED

Henderson-Massey Local Board

Resolution number HM/2024/5

MOVED by Deputy Chairperson W Flavell, seconded by Member B Brady:

That the Henderson-Massey Local Board:

- a) tautoko / support Option Two - Postal voting, plus more special voting centres (Status quo plus) for future local elections.
- b) tono / request each local board area have several additional special voting centres where people frequently congregate e.g. library, sport clubs, supermarket, marae etc.

CARRIED

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Resolution number HB/2024/6

MOVED by Member S Mills, seconded by Member V Short:

That the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board:

- a) tautoko / support Option 1, being the status quo of postal voting with few but fully stocked special voting centres
- b) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that through resolution councils can change their voting methods
- c) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that the Department of Internal Affairs have signalled changes to local election legislation in an effort to modernise the system and that these changes will unlikely impact the 2025 election cycle
- d) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note the unknown costs of moving to other options with only estimates being available
- e) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note the estimated costs increasing significantly for any option that includes booth voting, in our view being an unfavourable move given the current budgetary environment
- f) recommend council look to investigate cost effective options for in-person voting, where postal voting is not available, again in the future.

CARRIED

Howick Local Board

Resolution number HW/2024/7

MOVED by Chairperson D Light, seconded by Deputy Chairperson B Burns:

That the Howick Local Board:

- a) whakaū / confirm the position from previous feedback - Urgent Decision of the Howick Local Board to Formalise Feedback on the Evaluation of the Auckland Council Local Elections 2022, HW/ 2023/76.
 - “a) *note the urgent decision made on 17 April 2023 to formalise the Howick Local Board’s feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022, as follows:*
 - i) *the Board recommend the postal voting system be discontinued, noting the following reasons:*
 - A) *it is inefficient, in many cases voting papers are forgotten, misplaced, or thrown out with junk mail, so this immediately reduces the potential voting return numbers.*
 - B) *many potential voters did not receive voting papers, or received them late, due to the inadequate postal system.*
 - C) *there was a low voter turnout in the recent election.*
 - D) *if the postal voting system was discontinued, recommends a shift towards either an online voting system, which should encourage younger voters more, or run local body elections the same way as parliamentary elections and have one set day where people go to a polling booth to vote, or a combination of both. This would focus voters’ attention on the one day”.*
- b) tautoko / support the Option four, combination voting (postal, with booth on election day only).
- c) tono / request further investigation to extending booth voting to seven days with less than 30 locations for six days before the last day of voting.
- d) tono / request introduction of online voting as soon as practically possible.

CARRIED

Kaipātiki Local Board

Resolution number KT/2024/8

MOVED by Chairperson J Gillon, seconded by Deputy Chairperson D Grant:

That the Kaipātiki Local Board:

- a) whakarite / provide the following feedback on the voting methods for the 2025 Auckland Council local government election:
 - i) We have a first preference of “Option Two - Status quo plus - postal voting with more special voting centres”, with the following feedback:
 - A) We support the proposed increase in special voting centres, as we must have one local centre per local board area. The lack of a centre in Kaipātiki caused significant issues for some voters at the 2022 local government election.
 - B) We support a clear “election day/final day to vote” campaign to help galvanise voters. While many people take the opportunity to post their vote prior to election day, we feel there isn’t an emphasis on the final day to get out and vote as there is for general elections. This is a lost opportunity, and we are aware of many people who intended to vote in the 2022 local government election, but missed out as they weren’t aware of election day.
 - C) We support a reduced voting period to help prevent people deferring voting until it is too late. While a postal vote system requires an amount of time for the votes to be dispatched and returned, the current period of time is of a length that people who put aside the voting packs to deal with later then forget to fill out and return them.
 - ii) We have a second preference of “Option Four - combination voting (postal, with booth on election day only)”, with the following feedback:
 - A) We do not believe that there will be significant confusion in having a 12pm end time for postal voting and a 7pm end time for booth voting. Anyone turning up to a collection box after 12pm can be directed to a booth to submit their voting papers.
 - B) If not selected for 2025, we support Auckland Council working towards including booth voting on election day for the 2028 local government election.
 - iii) We request that the official candidate booklets are available online and easily locatable for viewing/downloading.

CARRIED

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

Resolution number MO/2024/75

MOVED by Chairperson N Bakulich, seconded by Member P Peo:

That the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board:

- a) whakarite / provide feedback on their preferred voting method provided in this report and on the staff recommendation for the status quo plus option
- b) tautoko / support Option Five as their preferred voting method which is a combination voting (booth and postal). This responds to the declining postal service, while giving voters more options for casting and returning their votes
- c) tono / request that should Option Two be favoured by the Governing Body (status quo plus), that postal voting with multiple local special voting centres and the ability to manage the voter numbers, are put in place for our community
- d) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note the board supports all efforts to increase voter turnout. Even though online voting is not being pursued at present, the board recognizes the changing environment demands moving towards effective use of online tools. This will ensure a wider reach within the community.

CARRIED

Manurewa Local Board

Resolution number MR/2024/9

MOVED by Chairperson M Winiata, seconded by Deputy Chairperson G Murphy:

That the Manurewa Local Board:

- a) whakarite / provide the following feedback on voting methods in local elections:
 - i) tautoko / support efforts to increase the ease and accessibility of voting
 - ii) tautoko / support Option Five - combination voting (booth and postal) as the preferred voting method option
 - iii) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that the preference would be for the General Election and Local Elections to have the same election process and systems to allow for consistency and to encourage a higher voter turnout and greater understanding and familiarity of the election processes
 - iv) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that although option 5 would result in an increased cost to the ratepayer, the board believes opportunities to increase voter turnout should be prioritised.

CARRIED

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board

Resolution number **MT/2024/10**

MOVED by Member C Makoare, seconded by Member P McGlashan:

That the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board:

- a) support the status quo plus voting method, enabling postal voting with at least one special voting centre per local board area

CARRIED

Ōrākei Local Board

Resolution number OR/2024/11

MOVED by Member P Tucker, seconded by Member M Voyce:

That the Ōrākei Local Board:

- a) support Option Two – Status Quo Plus and provide the further feedback as outlined below:
 - i) extend the time period of postal votes that can be posted and received (currently the postal voting period is 10 days and votes cannot be posted after midday on election day).
 - ii) continue to provide ballot boxes at Woolworths Supermarkets (or similar), train stations, libraries, and council facilities.
 - iii) combine booth voting with postal voting and continue the operation of 14 super centres across Auckland for on-site voting, however all centres should be equipped to deal with special votes across Auckland and not just the local board area in which they are situated (noting that only 2% of votes were cast as special votes).
 - iv) as the key reason people did not vote was because they did not know enough about candidates or the remit of local boards, a link for more information could be provided on the Vote Auckland website.
 - v) online voting is not endorsed as an option, owing to fact that online voting platforms are not secure and open to exploitation and manipulation.

CARRIED

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

Resolution number OP/2024/12

MOVED by Chairperson AR Autagavaia, seconded by Member O Dewes, MNZM:

That the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board:

- a) whakarite / provide feedback on their preferred voting method provided in this report and on the staff recommendation for the status quo plus option.
- b) tautoko / support Option Two (status quo plus) - postal voting with more special voting centres.
- c) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note their support for Option 4 and 5 if these are taken up in future as the board supports all efforts to increase voter turnout. Even though online voting is not being pursued at present, the board recognizes the changing environment demands moving towards effective use of online tools. The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area has experienced the lowest voting turnout and online voting can help change the pattern.

CARRIED

Papakura Local Board

Resolution number PPK/2024/13

MOVED by Chairperson B Catchpole, seconded by Member A Webster:

That the Papakura Local Board:

- a) support the staff recommendation for Option two: postal voting with more special voting centres (status quo plus).

CARRIED

Puketāpapa Local Board

Resolution number PKTPP/2024/14

MOVED by Chairperson E Kumar, seconded by Deputy Chairperson F Lai:

That the Puketāpapa Local Board:

- a) support the staff recommendation to retain the postal voting method with an increase in special voting centres (the 'status quo plus' option / Option two).
- b) note all options will be costly and would require additional funding to be made available by making further trade-offs in another budgetary allocation.

CARRIED

Rodney Local Board

Resolution number RD/2024/90

MOVED by Member C Smith, seconded by Member M Carmichael:

That the Rodney Local Board:

- a) whakarite / support the recommended voting method provided in this report for the status quo plus option.

CARRIED

Upper Harbour Local Board

Resolution number UH/2024/15

MOVED by Deputy Chairperson U Casuri Balouch, seconded by Chairperson A Atkinson:

That the Upper Harbour Local Board:

- a) tautoko / support officer recommendation of option two (status quo plus) as the preferred voting method for the 2025 local government elections, which includes postal voting with more special voting centres, including at least one special voting centre in each local board area.

CARRIED

Waiheke Local Board

Resolution number WHK/2024/16

MOVED by Member P Walden, seconded by Member R Tucker:

That the Waiheke Local Board:

- a) support Option 2: the staff recommendation for the status quo plus option.

CARRIED

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Resolution number WTK/2024/17

MOVED by Member M Allen, seconded by Member L Potauaine:

That the Waitākere Ranges Local Board:

- a) tautoko / support Option Four - combination voting (postal, with booth on election day only) for future local elections.

CARRIED

Waitematā Local Board

Resolution number WTM/2024/18

MOVED by Member R Northey, seconded by Deputy Chairperson G Moyle:

That the Waitematā Local Board:

- a) support the staff recommendation for the status quo plus option.
- b) urge that the number of special voting places, including on election day be at least two per local board area including at least one in the city centre.
- c) urge effective measures to ensure that special voting papers do not run out, e.g., all places to have the ability to print down copies of every voting paper.
- d) urge Council to advocate for legislative change to enable secure online voting to be an option to be added to the combination voter option in future.
- e) urge Auckland Council to approve a greater range and number of completed voting paper drop off points throughout the voting period, e.g., service and charging stations bus and ferry terminals, educational institutions and places of worship.

CARRIED

Whau Local Board

Resolution number WH/2024/19

MOVED by Chairperson K Thomas, seconded by Member R Clow:

That the Whau Local Board:

- a) recommend to the Governing Body to progress Option Two - postal voting with more special voting centres ('status quo plus') as the preferred voting method for the 2025 elections
- b) urge more "One Stop Shops" be provided in such community spaces as Avondale Market where voters can enrol and vote at the same time as was provided in 2019.
- c) request that each local board area has several additional special voting centres where people frequently congregate e.g. library, sport clubs, supermarket, marae etc.

CARRIED